

Please amend claim 35 as follows:

C²

35. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for [the protein of claim 1] a purified mammalian protein having the ability to bind the cytoplasmic region of CD40 receptor.

Please add the following new claims:

48. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that is at least 90% homologous to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

49. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

50. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that is at least 90% homologous to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

C³

51. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claims 48 to 51, wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA or RNA.

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53. (New) A composition comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claims 48 to 51 and a carrier.